

Testimony
Susan Bransfield
First Selectwoman, Town of Portland
Finance Committee of the General Assembly
March 13, 2014

I am writing in **support of provisions in SB-28, AN ACT CONCERNING REVENUE ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET**, which exempt municipalities from the 1.75% premium loading tax.

Portland is facing escalating insurance costs which are becoming increasingly difficult to absorb given flat state and local revenues. SB-28 would alleviate some of the pressure by eliminating the 1.75% insurance premium tax which significantly adds to the cost of our benefit package. A growing percentage of our budget is in fact due to increasing municipal employee health insurance costs.

The 1.75% premium tax on health insurance is particularly troubling for small towns that do not have the resources to self-insure.

We therefore thank the committee for introducing this bill to try to provide some relief to small towns struggling to keep pace with increasing health insurance costs.

We urge your continued support for SB-28.

Thank You!